

Message Text

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ACTION L-03

INFO OCT-01 ARA-11 ADP-00 H-02 COA-02 SCI-06 COME-00 EB-11

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R 291619 Z MAY 73

FM AMCONSUL NASSAU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4256

C O N F I D E N T I A L NASSAU 686

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PBOR CPRS BF US

SUBJ: SUNKEN TREASURE: SEAFINDERS INC. CASE

REF: STATE 88181 AND PREVIOUS; WAUCHOPE LETTER OF MAY 10

1. ALTHOUGH CONGEN ATTEMPTED ARRANGE APPOINTMENT WITH MINISTER OF TRANSPORTATION ROLL TO DISCUSS SEAFINDERS CASE AT LEVEL OF DIRECT CONSULAR CONTACT, MINISTER ROLLE INSISTED CONGEN RAISE MATTER WITH EXTERNAL AFFAIRS. GOBI HAS CLEARLY ELEVATED THIS CASE FOR RESOLUTION AT TOP GOVERNMENT LEVELS. ACCORDINGLY ON MAY 24 CONOFF DISCUSSED CASE WITH MINISTER ADDERLEY PRESENTING POINTS OUTLINED PARA 6 REFTTEL.

2. ADDERLEY STATED CURRENT DISPUTE AROSE MAINLY FROM FACT THAT GOBI FORCED IN PAST TO DEAL WITH A " BUNCH OF CROOKS" WHO REPRESENTED SEAFINDERS. ALTHOUGH GOBI AWARE THAT SEAFINDERS' NEW PRESIDENT KELLEY HAD TERMINATED THE SERVICES OF THE PREVIOUS " CROOKS", GOBI WOULD NEED SOME RELIABLE ASSURANCES ABOUT HONESTY AND INTEGRITY OF PRESIDENT KELLEY AND PRESENT SEAFINDERS PERSONNEL BEFORE FURTHER DISCUSSIONS WITH SEAFINDERS COULD TAKE PLACE. ADDERLEY NOTED THAT KELLEY WAS ALREADY ASSOCIATED WITH SEAFINDERS WHEN GOBI DISCONTINUED DEALING WITH EX- PRESIDENT BASCOM ET AL.

3. TO ASSIST GOBI IN PREVENTING ANY FURTHER MISADVENTURES WITH SEAFINDERS, ADDERLEY ASKED WHETHER CONGEN COULD VOUCH FOR HONESTY AND REPUTATION OF PRESIDENT KELLEY AND CURRENT
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DIRECTORS OF SEAFINDERS.

4. AS CONGEN' S INFORMATION IS INSUFFICIENT TO WARRANT GIVING SUCH CHARACTER ASSURANCES, REQUEST DEPARTMENT' S ADVICE BASED ON MORE EXTENSIVE AND HOPEFULLY READILY AVAILABLE BACKGROUND DATA WHETHER OR NOT CONGEN SHOULD VOUCH FOR SEAFINDERS IN THIS MANNER WHILE CONTINUING AVOID TAKING STANCE ON MERITS OF CASE. ADDERLEY STATED GOBI WOULD REFRAIN FROM MAKING SUBSTANTIVE RESPONSE TO SEAFINDERS UNTIL SATISFIED PRESIDENT KELLEY AND COHORTS ARE TRUSTWORTHY.
SPEAR

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a
*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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